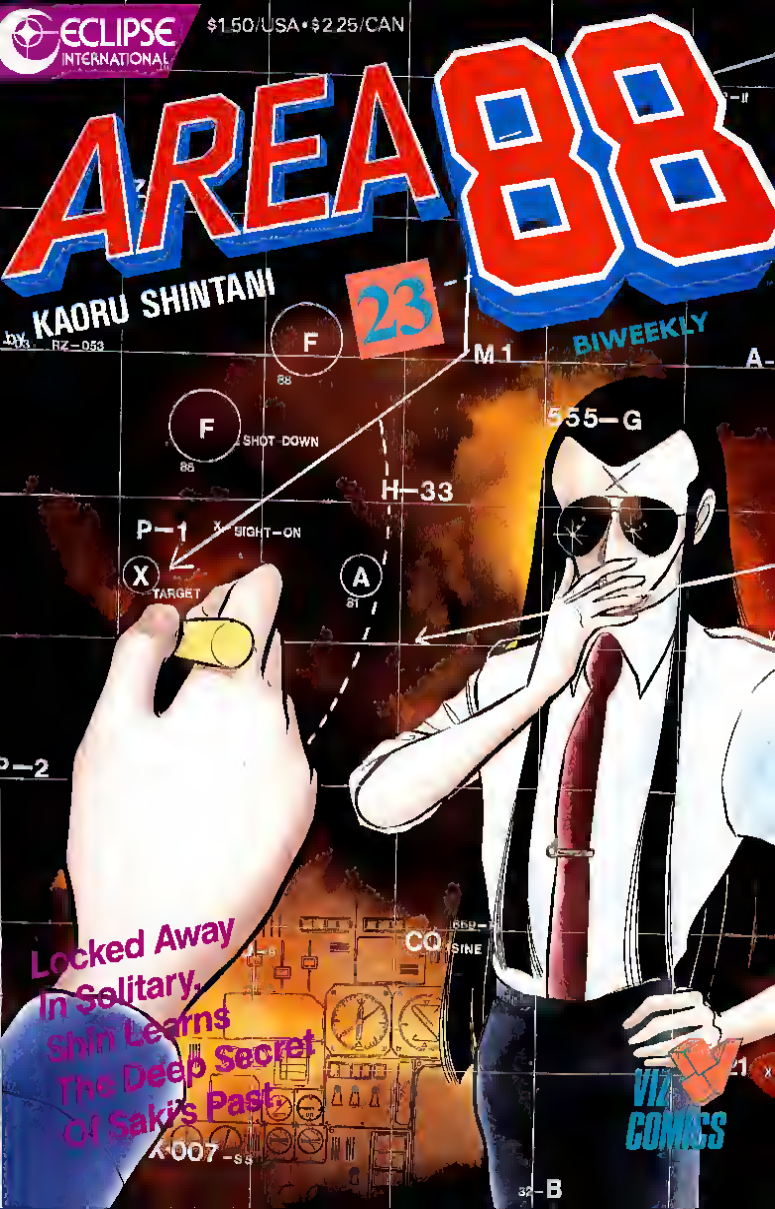
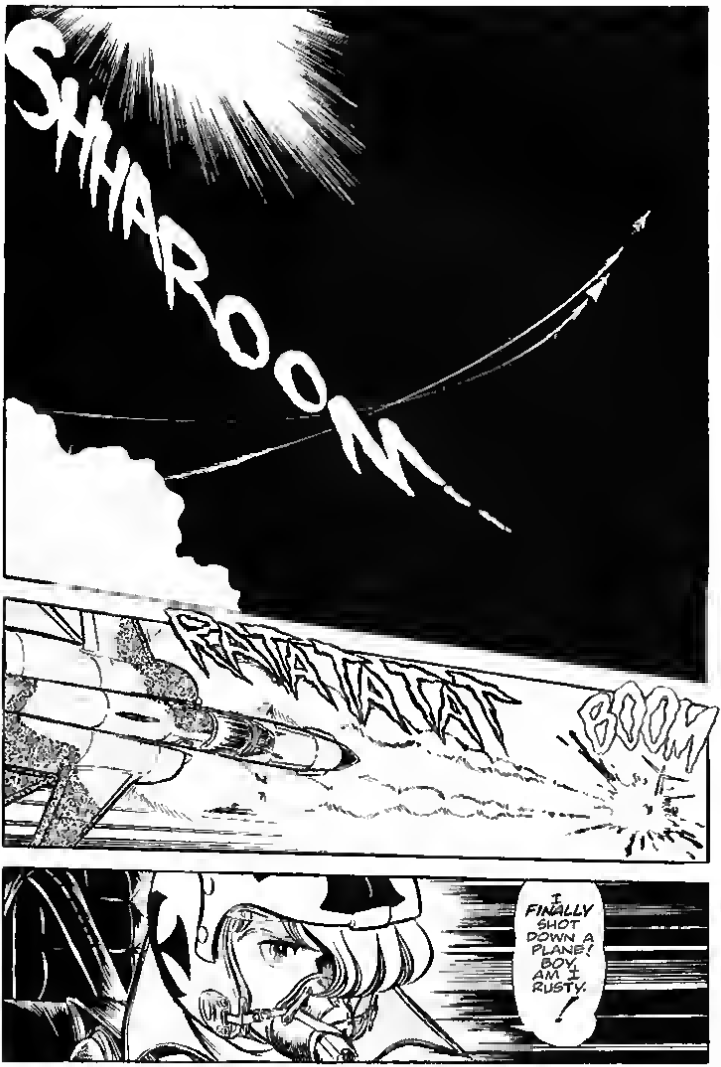
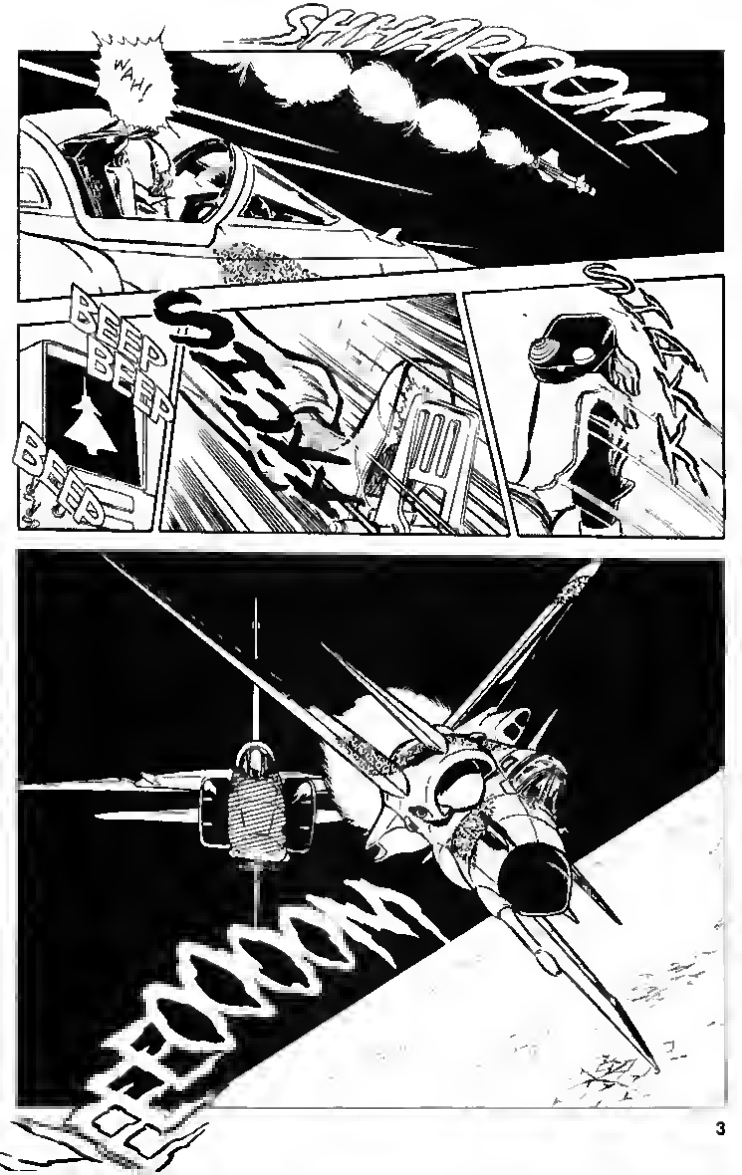
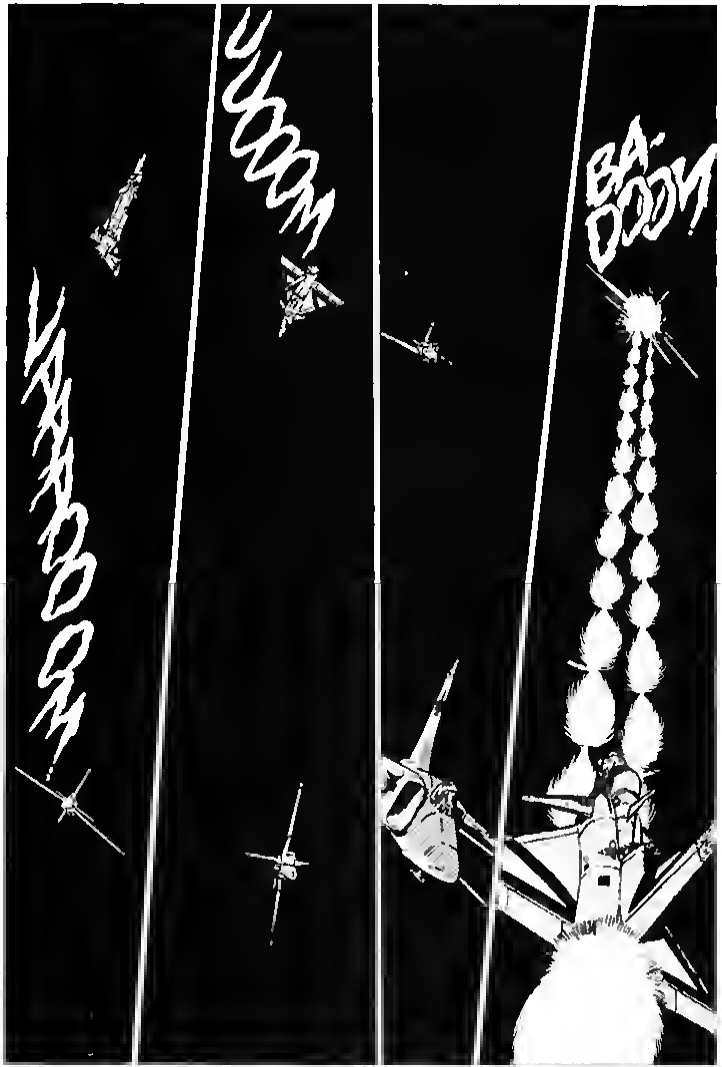

ECLIPSE INTERNATIONAL
$1.50/USA • $2.25/CAN
AREA 88
KAORU SHINTANI
23
BIWEEKLY
F
88
F
86
SHOT DOWN
H-33
P-1
SIGHT-ON
X
TARGET
A
81
555-G
M1
Locked Away In Solitary, Shin Learns The Deep Secret Of Saki's Past
X-007
VIZ COMICS

Mission 23:

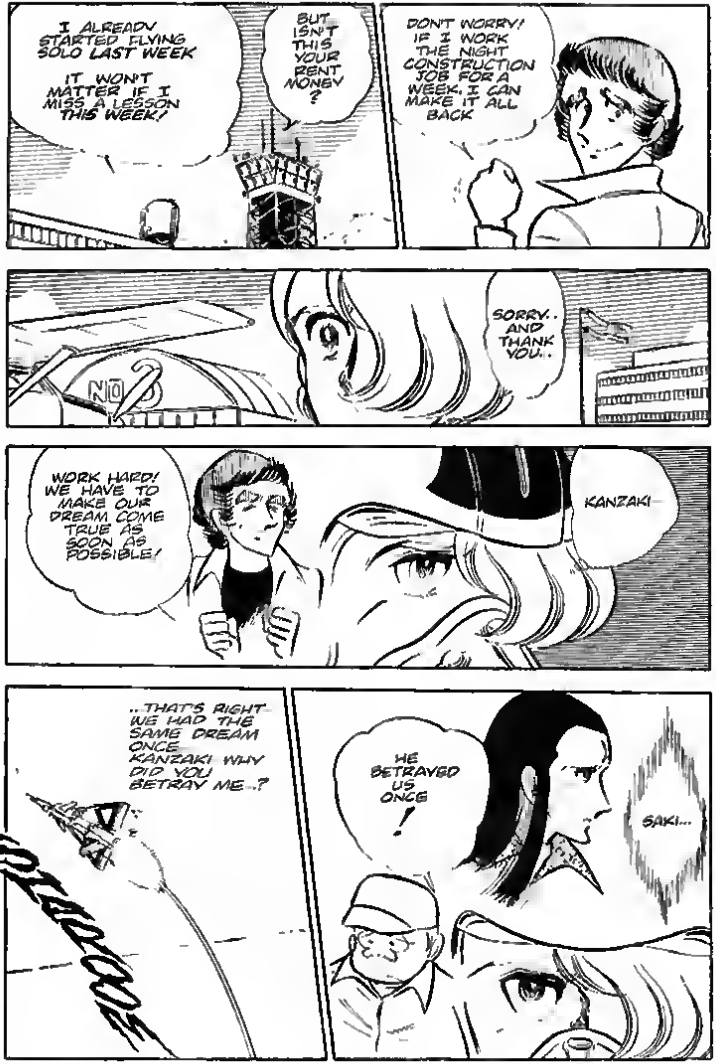
the heartbroken lion

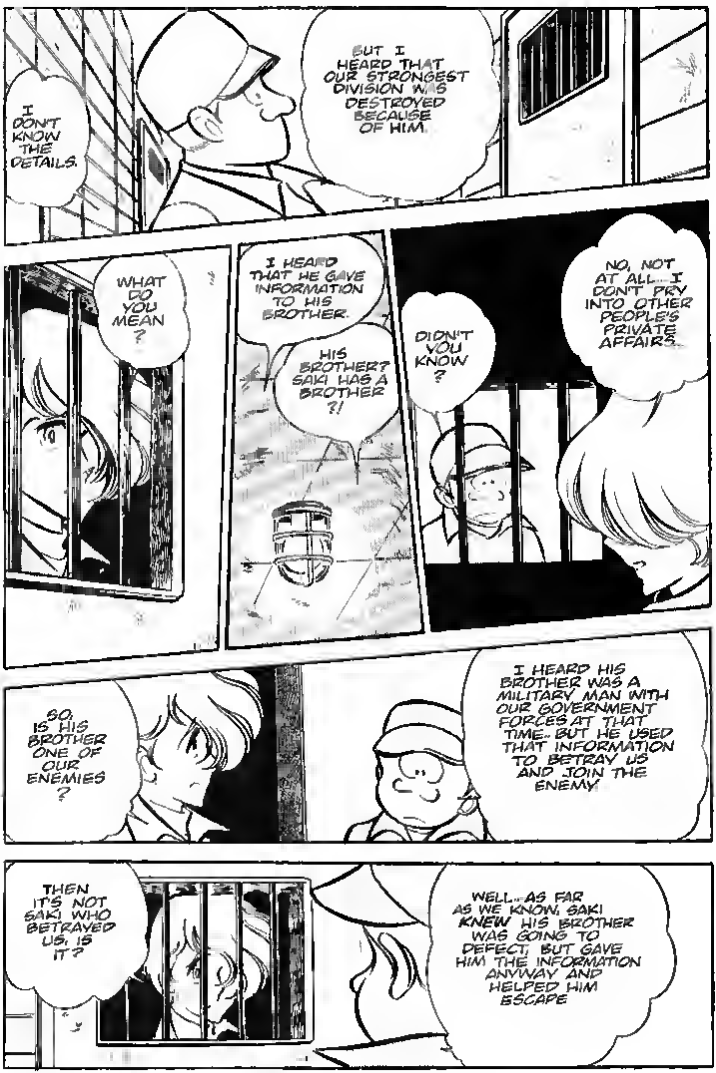

SHHAROOM
RATATATAT
BOOM
I FINALLY SHOT DOWN A PLANE! BOY, AM I RUSTY.

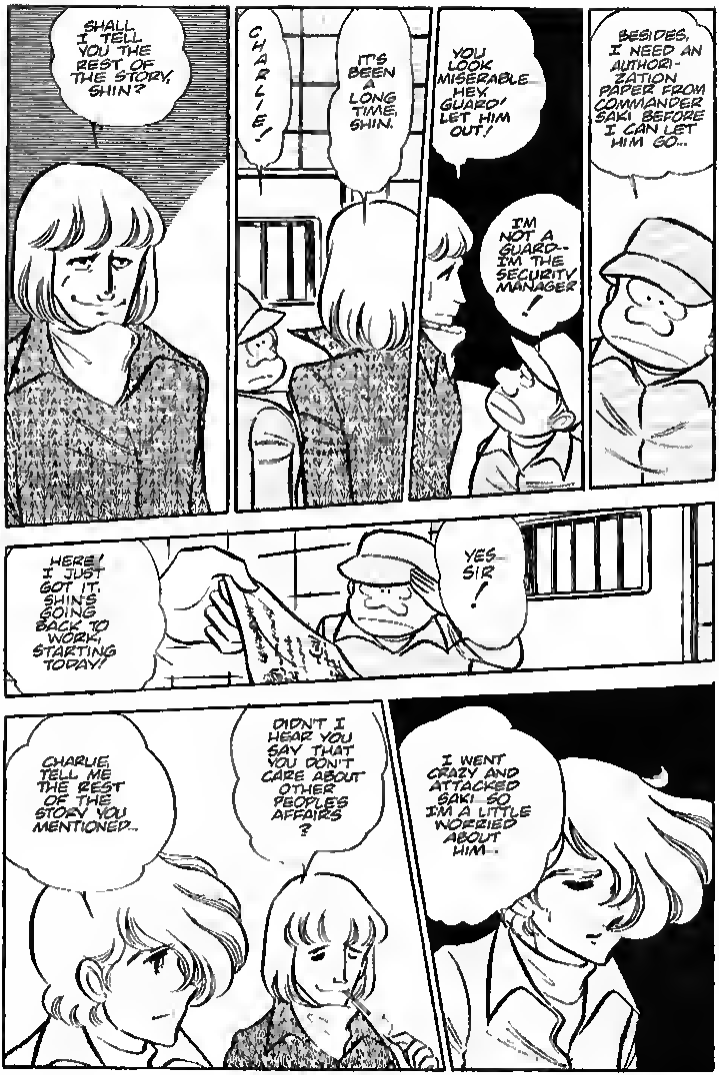

SKWARROOM
WAH!
BOOM
SZZT
SKRTCH
KRRR

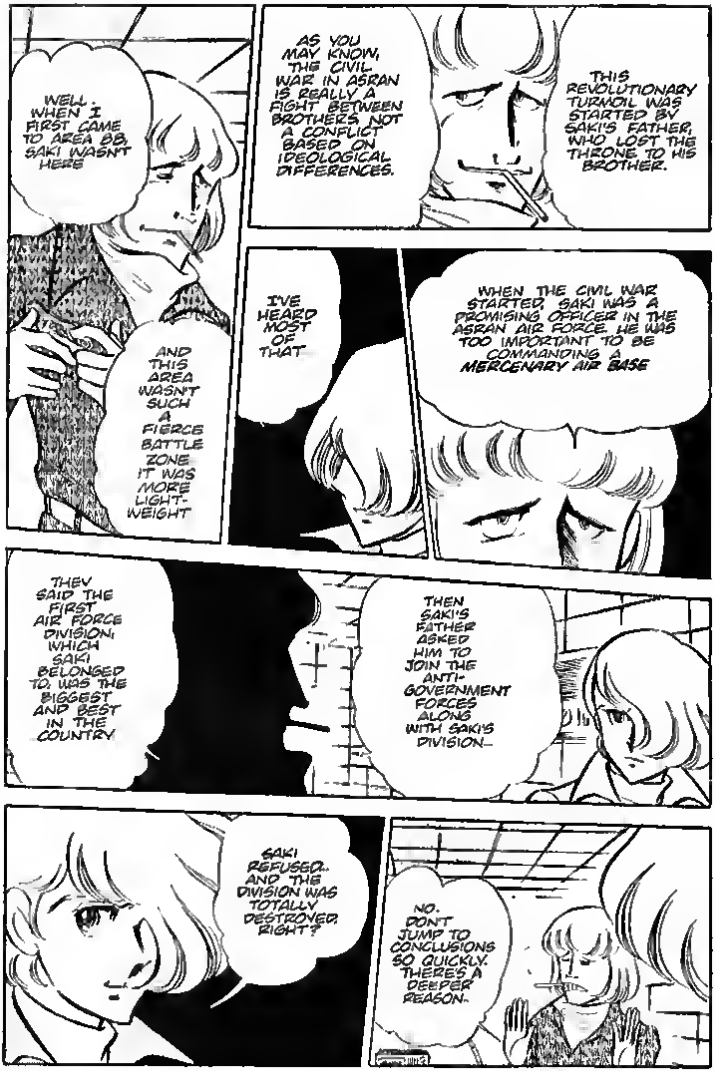

KABOOM!
BOOM
BA-BOOM!

whew... I WAS AT POINT BLANK RANGE, SO HIS MISSILE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO ADJUST ITS TRAJECTORY.
THAT WAS CLOSE.
HOW PATHETIC-- I'VE GOT THE SHAKES..
SO THIS IS WHAT I'VE BECOME AFTER JUST A WEEK AWAY FROM COMBAT...
NO, SHIN! IF YOU DON'T TAKE A LESSON NOW, YOU'LL DELAY YOUR FIRST SOLO FLIGHT AGAIN!
BESIDES, NOBODY'S FLYING THE PLANE THIS AFTERNOON!
BUT.. I MISSED WORK THE OTHER DAY BECAUSE OF MY COLD, AND NOW I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE HOPELESS, SHIN. HERE... USE THIS!
KANZAKI


I ALREADY STARTED FLYING SOLO LAST WEEK
IT WON'T MATTER IF I MISS A LESSON THIS WEEK!
BUT ISN'T THIS YOUR RENT MONEY?
DON'T WORRY! IF I WORK THE NIGHT CONSTRUCTION JOB FOR A WEEK, I CAN MAKE IT ALL BACK
SORRY.. AND THANK YOU..
WORK HARD! WE HAVE TO MAKE OUR DREAM COME TRUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
KANZAKI
..THAT'S RIGHT WE HAD THE SAME DREAM ONCE KANZAKI WHY DID YOU BETRAY ME..?
OPENING
HE BETRAYED US ONCE!
SAKI...

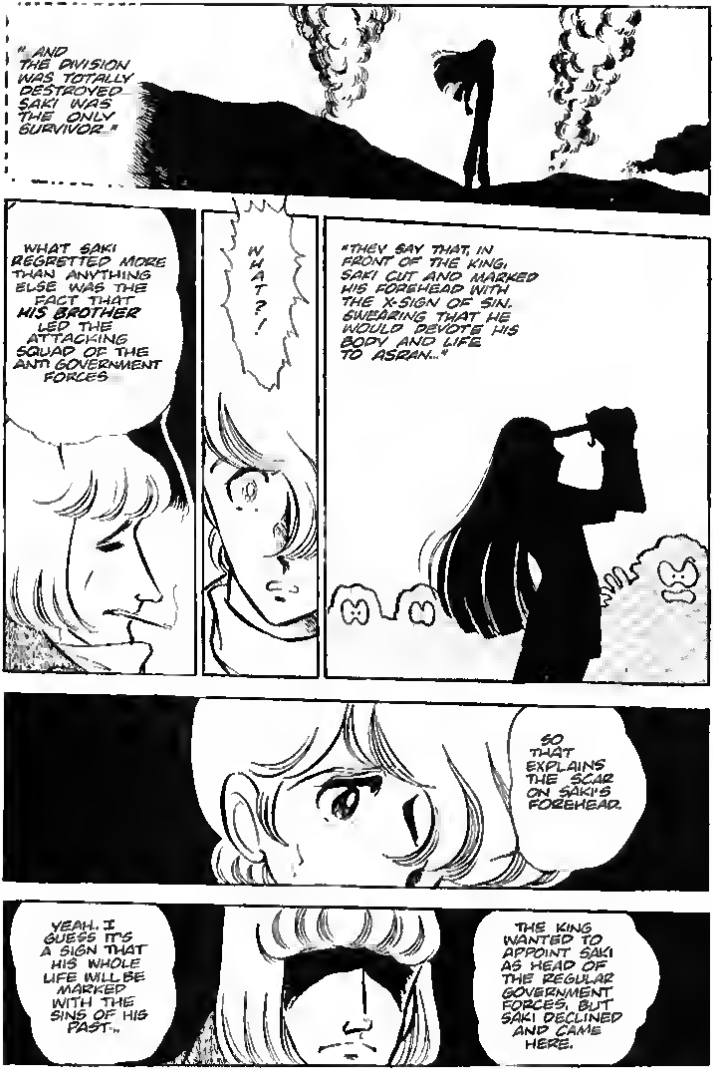

I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS.
BUT I HEARD THAT OUR STRONGEST DIVISION WAS DESTROYED BECAUSE OF HIM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
I HEARD THAT HE GAVE INFORMATION TO HIS BROTHER.
HIS BROTHER? SAKI HAS A BROTHER ?!
DIDN'T YOU KNOW ?
NO, NOT AT ALL... I DON'T PRY INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S PRIVATE AFFAIRS.
SO, IS HIS BROTHER ONE OF OUR ENEMIES ?
I HEARD HIS BROTHER WAS A MILITARY MAN WITH OUR GOVERNMENT FORCES AT THAT TIME. BUT HE USED THAT INFORMATION TO BETRAY US AND JOIN THE ENEMY.
THEN IT'S NOT SAKI WHO BETRAYED US, IS IT?
WELL... AS FAR AS WE KNOW, SAKI KNEW HIS BROTHER WAS GOING TO DEFECT, BUT GAVE HIM THE INFORMATION ANYWAY AND HELPED HIM ESCAPE

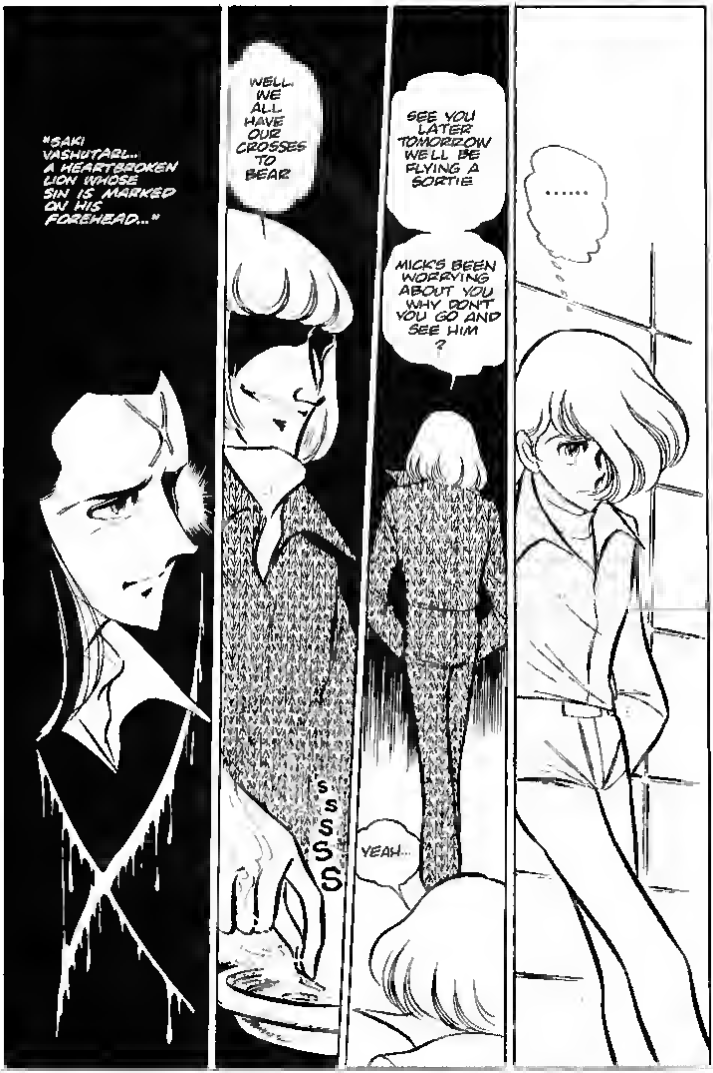

SHALL I TELL YOU THE REST OF THE STORY, SHIN?
CHARLIE!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, SHIN.
YOU LOOK MISERABLE. HEY, GUARD! LET HIM OUT!
I'M NOT A GUARD-- I'M THE SECURITY MANAGER!
BESIDES, I NEED AN AUTHORIZATION PAPER FROM COMMANDER SAKI BEFORE I CAN LET HIM GO...
HERE! I JUST GOT IT. SHIN'S GOING BACK TO WORK, STARTING TODAY!
YES SIR!
CHARLIE, TELL ME THE REST OF THE STORY YOU MENTIONED..
DIDN'T I HEAR YOU SAY THAT YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS?
I WENT CRAZY AND ATTACKED SAKI. SO I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT HIM...


WELL, I WHEN I FIRST CAME TO AREA 88, SAKI WASN'T HERE
AND THIS AREA WASN'T SUCH A FIERCE BATTLE ZONE IT WAS MORE LIGHT-WEIGHT
AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE CIVIL WAR IN ASRAN IS REALLY A FIGHT BETWEEN BROTHERS, NOT A CONFLICT BASED ON IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES.
THIS REVOLUTIONARY TURMOIL WAS STARTED BY SAKI'S FATHER, WHO LOST THE THRONE TO HIS BROTHER.
I'VE HEARD MOST OF THAT
WHEN THE CIVIL WAR STARTED, SAKI WAS A PROMISING OFFICER IN THE ASRAN AIR FORCE. HE WAS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE COMMANDING A MERCENARY AIR BASE
THEY SAID THE FIRST AIR FORCE DIVISION, WHICH SAKI BELONGED TO, WAS THE BIGGEST AND BEST IN THE COUNTRY.
THEN SAKI'S FATHER ASKED HIM TO JOIN THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES ALONG WITH SAKI'S DIVISION...
SAKI REFUSED... AND THE DIVISION WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED, RIGHT?
NO. DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS SO QUICKLY. THERE'S A DEEPER REASON.

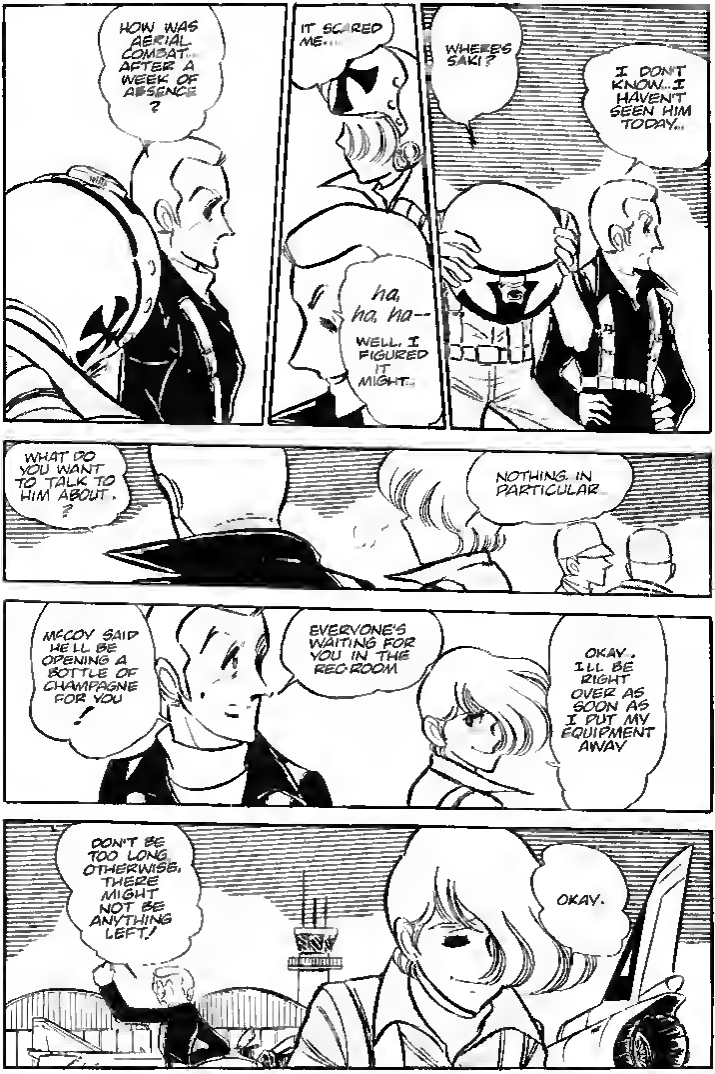
JUST ASSUME FOR A MINUTE THAT SAKI'S MIND WAS SWAYED BY HIS FATHER A LITTLE
SO, HE CONSULTED MINISTER KIM, WHO WAS THE VICE-MINISTER OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, ABOUT WHAT HE SHOULD DO..
WHAT KIND OF ADVICE DID MINISTER KIM GIVE ?
HE TOLD SAKI TO DESTROY THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES USING THE FIRST DIVISION, WHICH SAKI WAS VIRTUALLY COMMANDING. IT WAS THE SAME AS TELLING SAKI TO KILL HIS FATHER
KIM MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT IF THEY DIDN'T END THE WAR SOON, THE WHOLE COUNTRY WOULD BE RUINED.
HOW CRUEL TELLING SAKI HE MUST KILL HIS FATHER
TESTED?!
THAT WAS HOW SAKI WAS BEING TESTED.
KIM IMPLIED THAT SAKI HAD TO SHOW PROOF OF HIS SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT FORCES, THAT IS, FOR HIS UNCLE

THEN, AFTER LONG AND DELIBERATE REFLECTION, SAKI REVEALED ALL THIS TO HIS BROTHER, WHO WAS HIS SUBORDINATE, AND TOLD HIM TO VISIT THEIR FATHER
AND THEN...?
SAKI'S THINKING WAS LIKE THIS... HIS BROTHER WOULD TELL HIS FATHER THAT SAKI'S DIVISION WOULD ATTACK THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES A FEW DAYS LATER. SINCE THERE WOULD BE NO CHANCE OF SAKI'S FATHER WINNING, HE WOULD SURRENDER...
SAKI, YOU SEE, DIDN'T WANT TO SHED FAMILY BLOOD...
PROBABLY SAKI'S LAST HOPE WAS TO RELY ON THEIR BLOOD TIES BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, THIS WAS HIS WEAKNESS
"I HEARD THAT, AFTER BRINGING TOGETHER HIS DIVISION, SAKI REPEATEDLY DELAYED THE ATTACK WITH PHONY EXCUSES. SAKI'S FATHER ATTACKED THE DIVISION..."


"AND THE DIVISION WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED. SAKI WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR."
WHAT SAKI REGRETTED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE WAS THE FACT THAT HIS BROTHER LED THE ATTACKING SQUAD OF THE ANTI GOVERNMENT FORCES
WHAT?!
"THEY SAY THAT, IN FRONT OF THE KING, SAKI CUT AND MARKED HIS FOREHEAD WITH THE X-SIGN OF SIN, SWEARING THAT HE WOULD DEVOTE HIS BODY AND LIFE TO ASRAN..."
SO THAT EXPLAINS THE SCAR ON SAKI'S FOREHEAD.
YEAH. I GUESS IT'S A SIGN THAT HIS WHOLE LIFE WILL BE MARKED WITH THE SINS OF HIS PAST...
THE KING WANTED TO APPOINT SAKI AS HEAD OF THE REGULAR GOVERNMENT FORCES, BUT SAKI DECLINED AND CAME HERE.


"SAKI VASHUTARL... A HEARTBROKEN LION WHOSE SIN IS MARKED ON HIS FOREHEAD..."
WELL... WE ALL HAVE OUR CROSSES TO BEAR
SSSSS
SEE YOU LATER TOMORROW WE'LL BE FLYING A SORTIE
MICK'S BEEN WORRYING ABOUT YOU WHY DON'T YOU GO AND SEE HIM ?
YEAH...
.....

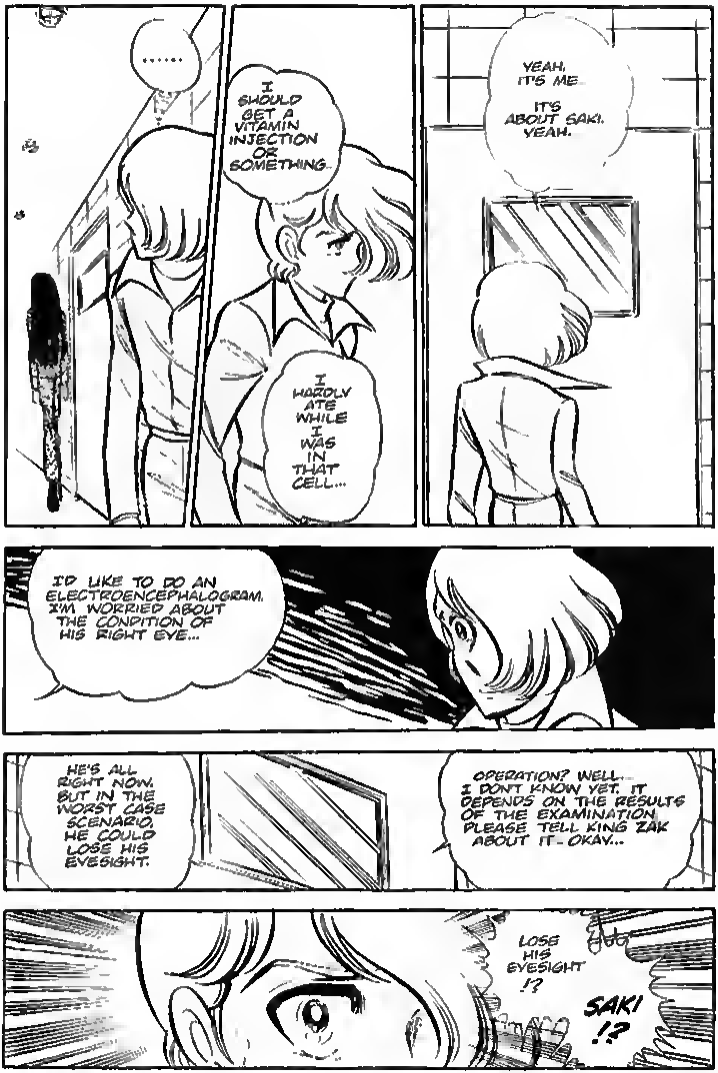
VEUUUU
KYUUU
SHUUU
SHIN!

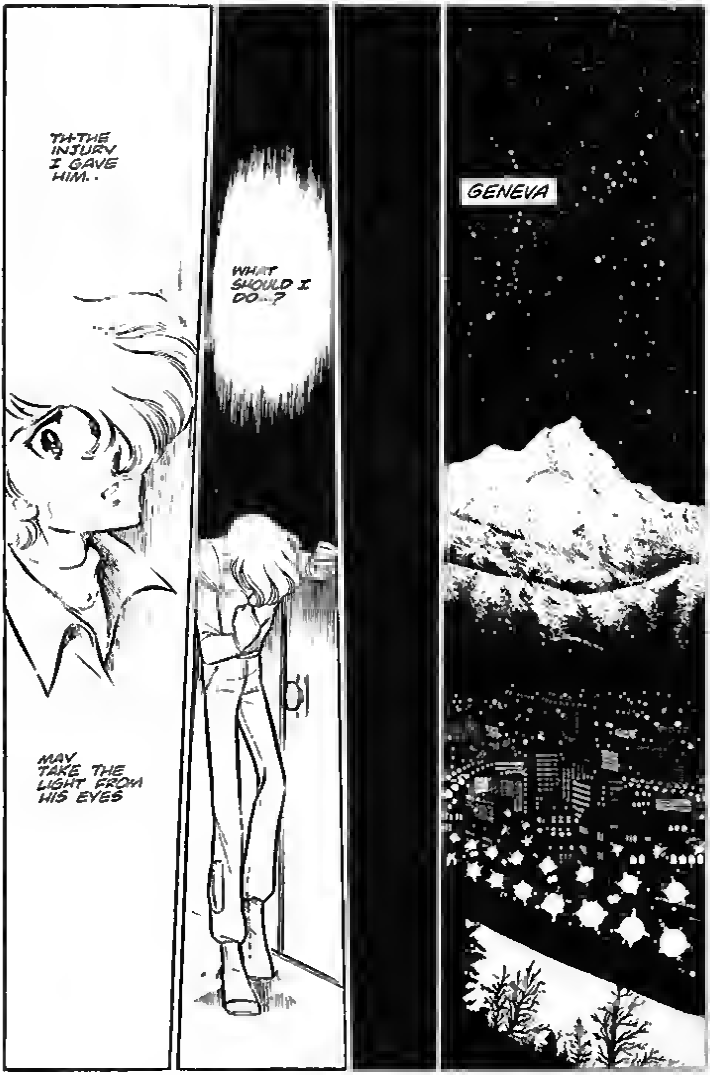

HOW WAS AERIAL COMBAT... AFTER A WEEK OF ABSENCE ?
IT SCARED ME....
ha, ha, ha--
WELL, I FIGURED IT MIGHT..
WHERE'S SAKI ?
I DON'T KNOW... I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM TODAY...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT.. ?
NOTHING. IN PARTICULAR...
McCOY SAID HE'LL BE OPENING A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE FOR YOU !
EVERYONE'S WAITING FOR YOU IN THE REC-ROOM
OKAY. I'LL BE RIGHT OVER AS SOON AS I PUT MY EQUIPMENT AWAY
DON'T BE TOO LONG, OTHERWISE, THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANYTHING LEFT!
OKAY.

BUT I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING DEFINITE WITHOUT FURTHER EXAMINATION...
YOUR RIGHT EYE RESPONDS A LITTLE MORE SLOWLY THAN YOUR LEFT EYE...
HOW IS IT ?
HMMMM...
OKAY
SAKI, COULD YOU HAND ME THE PEN OVER THERE ?
I SEE...
AS FAR AS YOUR FLYING IS CONCERNED I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT.. LET'S JUST WAIT AND SEE

TAP
!!
MY DEPTH PERCEPTION IS OFF!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
W-WELL... UH... NOTHING, NOTHING...
SEE YOU LATER..
THIS ISN'T GOOD. EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE TEMPORARY, MY RIGHT EYE IS OFF.
SAKI

SHIN.
I'LL BE IN THE COMMAND CENTER. IF YOU NEED ME, CALL ME OVER THERE.
OH.. HOW WERE YOUR RESULTS TODAY ?
..OKAY
BUT, WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN..
NEXT TIME, YOU WILL BE SHOT..
I CAME TO APOLOGIZE... EVEN IF I WAS A LITTLE CRAZY, IT WAS A TERRIBLE THING FOR ME TO HIT YOU
I ACCEPT YOUR APOLOGY
I'M NOT IN HIGH GEAR YET.
TWO FIGHTERS.
DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL RECOVER SOON..


.....
I SHOULD GET A VITAMIN INJECTION OR SOMETHING...
I HARDLY ATE WHILE I WAS IN THAT CELL...
YEAH, IT'S ME.
IT'S ABOUT SAKI. YEAH.
I'D LIKE TO DO AN ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAM. I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE CONDITION OF HIS RIGHT EYE...
HE'S ALL RIGHT NOW. BUT IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO, HE COULD LOSE HIS EYESIGHT.
OPERATION? WELL... I DON'T KNOW YET. IT DEPENDS ON THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION. PLEASE TELL KING ZAK ABOUT IT. OKAY...
LOSE HIS EYESIGHT !?
SAKI !?


TH-THE INJURY I GAVE HIM..
WHAT SHOULD I DO..?
MAY TAKE THE LIGHT FROM HIS EYES
GENEVA

SHUMP
TAEKO, IS THIS REALLY TRUE?!
THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER..!
YES. I'M EIGHTY PERCENT SURE OF IT.
BUT THIS IS AS FAR AS I COULD GET ON MY OWN
WE MUST SEND THESE PAPERS TO OUR MAIN OFFICE AND HAVE THEM LOOK INTO IT IN MORE DETAIL
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT- THAT YAMATO AIRLINES COULD BE TAKEN OVER BY OVERSEAS INVESTORS LIKE THIS.
THIS IS A VERY CLEVER PLOT. IT'S PROBABLY ESCAPED THE NOTICE OF EVEN OUR TOP EXECUTIVES
CROMER STEEL IN ENGLAND AND WESLEY OCEAN DEVELOPERS IN THE UNITED STATES WERE TAKEN OVER IN MUCH THE SAME WAY.
HOWEVER BIG A CORPORATION MAY BE, IF THEY ARE CARELESS, THEY CAN BE GOBBLED UP. JUST LIKE THAT!

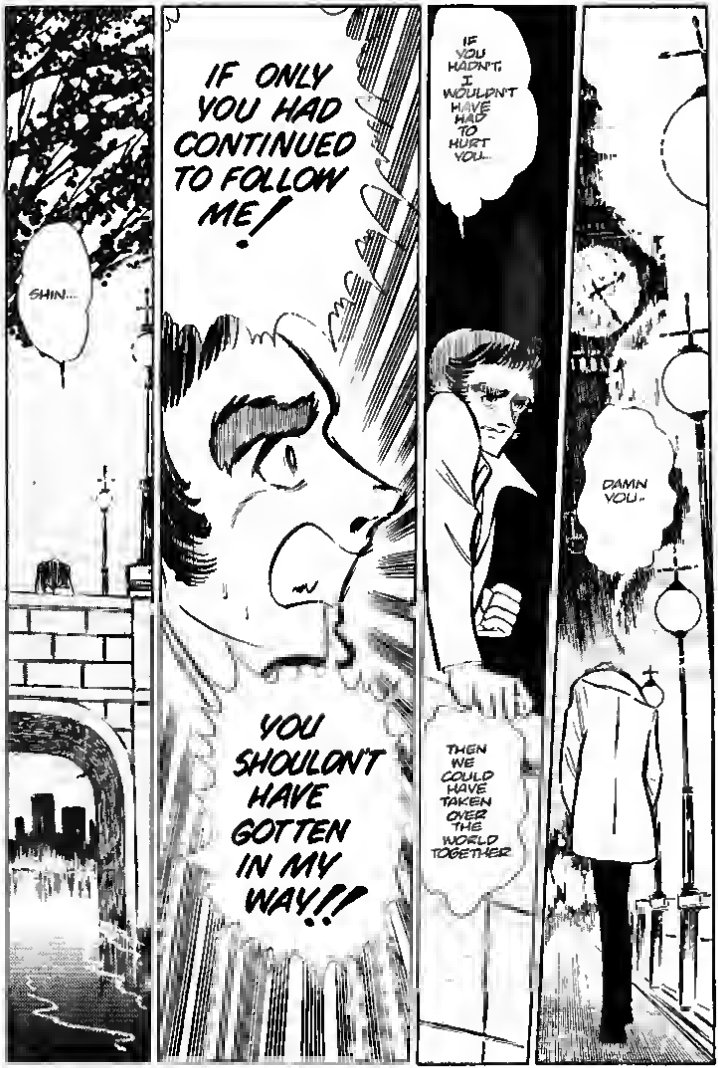
I DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE YET, BUT TWENTY FIVE PERCENT OF OUR SHARES SEEM ALREADY TO BE IN MAXWELL INTERNATIONAL'S HANDS.
THE STOCK IS DIVIDED AMONG SEVERAL DIFFERENT COMPANIES, BUT THEY ARE ALL AFFILIATED WITH MAXWELL...
...AND IF THEY HOLD FORTY PERCENT OF ALL SHARES, YAMATO AIRLINES IS AS GOOD AS THEIRS.
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT QUICKLY, YAMATO AIRLINES WILL BE TAKEN OVER.
BUT WHO SET UP THIS DEAL ?
MAXWELL DOESN'T HAVE AN AGENCY IN JAPAN...
WHAT IF CAPTAIN KANZAKI DID ALL THIS FOR THEM ?
NONSENSE! HE'S A PILOT. HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF MAN TO GET INVOLVED IN BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS!
AT TOKYO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BEFORE WE LEFT FOR THIS TRIP, I SAW CAPTAIN KANZAKI WITH AN AGENT FROM MAXWELL.
I'M SURE THIS GUY WAS THEIR AGENT-- I ALSO SAW HIM AT THE MEETING TO DECIDE OUR NEW JET MODELS !
B-BUT... THAT'S NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO BLAME IT ALL ON MR KANZAKI !

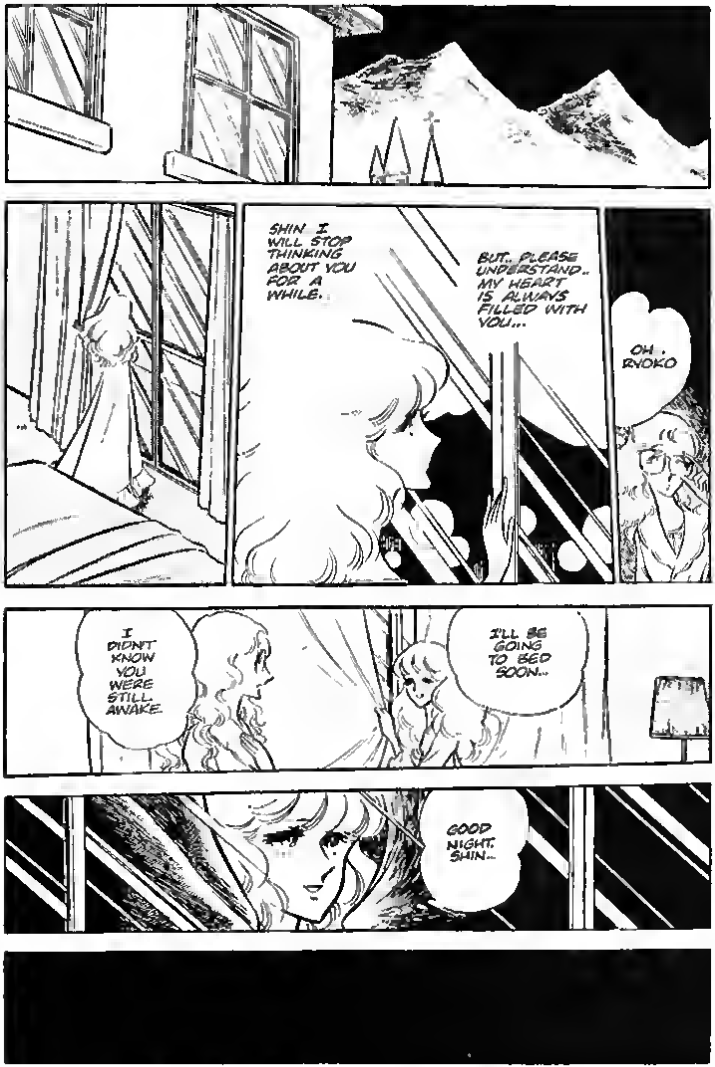
IT'S TRUE THAT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE... BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY HE LOOKS SUSPICIOUS...
TAEKO
HIS WORK RECORD, PRIVATE LIFE, AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS ARE ALL CLEAR...
THE MAN IS FAULTLESS!
THEN WHY IS HE ALWAYS IN SOME DUBIOUS LOCALE ?!
I CAN'T HELP THINKING HE IS TRYING TO ERASE ANY EVIDENCE— OR RATHER, TRYING TO PUT HIMSELF IN A POSITION WHERE HE KEEPS HIS HANDS CLEAN!
HE'S A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER !
I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BONES! IF HE ISN'T FIRED RIGHT AWAY, SOMETHING SERIOUS IS GOING TO HAPPEN!
.....
TAEKO...
LET'S GO BACK TO JAPAN WITH THESE PAPERS
FIRST WE HAVE TO TALK WITH MY FATHER

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE NEW PRESIDENT OF YAMATO AIRLINES.
MMMM THEN, AS OF TODAY, MY SHARES EXCEED FORTY FIVE PERCENT OF THE AIRLINE'S PUBLIC OFFERINGS
WHY? DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING TOO CAUTIOUS?
WELL, THE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING WILL BE HELD NEXT MONTH. PLEASE KEEP THIS A SECRET 'TIL THEN.
A MOUSE WITH GOOD INTUITION IS SNIFFING FOR A BIG LUMP OF CHEESE
ALSO IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU SCATTER THE SHARES AMONG MORE STOCK-HOLDERS.
MAYBE BUT IF YOU HURRY TOO MUCH, YOU WILL FALL...

OKAY WILL DO.
BUT IF YOU WAIT TOO LONG, SOMEBODY ELSE MAY ACT FIRST
ha, ha, ha..EVEN IF THEY DO LOOK INTO IT, ALL THEY'LL DISCOVER IS THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF NEW STOCKHOLDERS, EACH WITH LESS THAN A FIVE PERCENT SHARE
WHO MIGHT IMAGINE THAT NEXT MONTH ALL THOSE SHARES WILL BE HELD BY ONE MAN ?
IF MAXWELL WERE TO TAKE OVER YAMATO AIRLINES, THE JAPANESE PUBLIC MIGHT BE OFFENDED. BUT IF THERE IS MERELY A CHANGE IN PRESIDENT, NO ONE WILL MAKE A FUSS.
YEAH..
IF YOU BECOME PRESIDENT AND START TO USE OUR NEW MODEL ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO DOMINATE SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PART OF EUROPE.
AND SINCE YAMATO AIRLINES IS THE JAPANESE LEADER IN AIR CARRIERS, ALL THE OTHER AIRLINES WILL WANT TO USE OUR MODELS AS WELL!
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOU'LL WIN THE COMPETITION OVER BOEING AND McDONNELL-DOUGLAS.

WELL, SEE YOU LATER
GOODBYE, MR. PRESIDENT!
heh, heh, heh...
STUPID MAXWELL— THEY MAY FEEL SECURE MAKING ME THE NEW PRESIDENT OF YAMATO AIRLINES...
BUT I'M NOT THE KIND OF GUY WHO'LL BE SATISFIED WITH SUCH A SMALL PIECE OF THE PIE—
THIS IS JUST ONE STEP IN MY PLAN— TO CONTROL ALL OF JAPAN..
I'LL HAVE ALL THE POLI-TICIANS AT MY BECK AND CALL...
YOU FOOLS ARE NOTHING BUT STEPPING STONES!


SHIN...
IF ONLY YOU HAD CONTINUED TO FOLLOW ME!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN IN MY WAY!!
IF YOU HADN'T, I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO HURT YOU...
THEN WE COULD HAVE TAKEN OVER THE WORLD TOGETHER
DAMN YOU-


SHIN I WILL STOP THINKING ABOUT YOU FOR A WHILE.
BUT.. PLEASE UNDERSTAND.. MY HEART IS ALWAYS FILLED WITH YOU...
OH, RYOKO
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE STILL AWAKE.
I'LL BE GOING TO BED SOON..
GOOD NIGHT, SHIN..

TO BE CONTINUED